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# Foreign

# CROPS AND MARKETS

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CONTENTS

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PAGE

## COTTON

Sudan Reduces Cotton Prices, Cuts Export Tax in Half .....	21
Argentina's Cotton Production Down as Consumption Increases .....	22

## DAIRY AND POULTRY PRODUCTS

Uruguayan Government Aids Surplus Butter Situation .....	11
World Butter and Cheese Prices .....	12
U. K. Cheese Prices Fall .....	13
New Zealand Butter Shipments to U. K. Drop Slightly .....	14
Danish Dairy Trade Up .....	14

## FATS, OILSEEDS, AND OILS

U. S. Exports of Edible Oils in October Down One-Fourth From Previous Year .....	14
Philippine Copra Production Expected to Exceed Last Year's .....	16
Malayan Copra Production 12 Percent Below 1956 Level .....	19
Malaya's Exports of Palm Oil and Palm Kernels Up From 1956 .....	20

## FOREIGN TRADE DEVELOPMENTS

Colombia Passes Decree for More Effective Land Use .....	23
--	----

## FRUITS, VEGETABLES, AND NUTS

India Processes Record Volume of African Raw Cashews During 1957 .....	17
Outlook Brighter for South African Processed Fruit in 1958 .....	18
Prospects Favorable for 1957-58 Chilean Dried Prune Pack .....	18
British Dry Pea Production Continues Low .....	13

## GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS, FEEDS, AND SEEDS

Finland's Wheat Production Down .....	8
Argentine Grain Harvest Begins .....	9
Sweden's Grain Crops Down .....	9
Uruguay Reports Record Wheat Production .....	10
Central America's Rice Crop Reduced by Drought .....	10
Cuban Poultry and Cattle Interests Recommend Duty-Free Imports of Corn .....	23

(Continued on following page)

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FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE  
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## LIVESTOCK AND MEATS PRODUCTS

U. S. Lard Exports Down 17 Percent in January-September.....	4
Dominion Wool Prices Continue To Decline.....	6
U. S. Meat Exports Rise.....	6
Argentina Exports Beef by Air.....	8
Panama Increases Cattle Exports.....	8
Ireland To Export Horsemeat.....	8

## SUGAR AND TROPICAL PRODUCTS

Colombia's Cacao Crop Affected by Drought.....	21
Jamaica Promoting Coffee Production.....	22

## TOBACCO

Morocco Expands Burley Production.....	3
Spiced Cigarette Industry Failing in Indonesia.....	3
Renewed Greek-Danish Trade Agreement Includes Tobacco.....	3
Greek Tobacco Center of Kavalla Improves Facilities.....	3
All-Australia Cigarette Raises Sales Problems.....	4
Homogenized Tobacco Leaf Introduced in West Germany.....	4

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FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

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## MOROCCO EXPANDS BURLEY PRODUCTION

Production of leaf tobacco in the Southern Zone of Morocco during 1957 amounted to 4.7 million pounds from 3,185 acres, compared with the 1956 harvest of 3.0 million pounds from 2,303 acres.

Total area of Burley harvested increased from 1,730 acres in 1956 to 2,562 acres in 1957. Preliminary forecasts place 1958 Burley acreage at 3,307 acres. Production of Burley rose from 1.8 million pounds in 1956 to 3.3 million in 1957 and is forecast at 4.0 million for 1958. Production of *Nicotiana Rustica* in 1957 amounted to 1.4 million pounds, compared with 1.2 million in 1956. This leaf is used in the production of snuff and pipe mixtures. In addition, Morocco produces very small quantities of flue-cured, oriental, and dark air-cured leaf tobacco. Combined production of these latter types amounted to only 43,000 pounds in 1957.

SPICED CIGARETTE INDUSTRY  
FAILING IN INDONESIA

The Association of Spiced Cigarette Factories in Indonesia has indicated that about 18 factories may have to close because of the high price of cloves and labor. These factories produce hand-rolled cigarettes containing whole cloves. Clove prices have risen sharply, and together with increasing wage rates have reduced profit margins to the vanishing point. It is believed that unless some method of producing spiced cigarettes by machine is developed, the industry cannot compete with factories making regular cigarettes.

RENEWED GREEK-DANISH TRADE  
AGREEMENT INCLUDES TOBACCO

The Greek-Danish Trade Agreement which expired August 24, 1957, has reportedly been extended for one year to August 24, 1958, by an exchange of letters dated September 4, 1957, between the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Danish Legation in Athens. The new agreement includes Greek leaf tobacco as one of the items available for export in exchange for Danish goods. Greece's leaf tobacco exports to Denmark during 1955 and 1956 amounted to 104,000 and 35,000 pounds, respectively.

GREEK TOBACCO CENTER OF KAVALLA  
IMPROVES FACILITIES

The Greek Government is financing the construction of several new tobacco warehouses in Kavalla, Greece. Undertaken as a public works measure to aid unemployed tobacco workers, the project will also provide storage and other facilities for manipulating a larger amount of the Greek tobacco crop. This in addition to the government-financed harbor improvement program will increase Kavalla's importance as a handling and shipping center for Greek tobacco.

#### ALL-AUSTRALIA CIGARETTE RAISES SALES PROBLEMS

The manufacture in Australia of a cigarette made entirely of domestic tobacco has been discontinued by the North Queensland Tobacco Growers Co-operative. The cigarette had not obtained marked popularity, although sales increased last year following an intensive advertising campaign and the development of an improved blend. Manufacture of this relatively low-sales-volume product has apparently been expensive, and it is reported that the all-Australia cigarette will now be made under contract by an established tobacco company.

#### HOMOGENIZED TOBACCO LEAF INTRODUCED IN WEST GERMANY

Tobacco producers in West Germany are somewhat apprehensive of possible displacement of natural leaf by homogenized leaf. One company is now manufacturing relatively small amounts of the homogenized product. Two other plants, with unknown potential, are under construction.

Future use of homogenized leaf, however, appears rather limited in West Germany. Several leading cigarette manufacturers have decided not to include it in their products because of sales problems which might arise from possible accusations that "artificial" tobacco was being used. As cigar binder, homogenized tobacco will meet severe competition from the paper binder widely employed at present in lower-priced cigars if adverse consumer reaction can be overcome.

#### U.S. LARD EXPORTS DOWN 17 PERCENT IN JANUARY-SEPTEMBER

United States exports of lard during January-September 1957 totaled 387.5 million pounds, compared with 469.7 million pounds during the corresponding period in 1956. Although United States exports to North American markets were up about 11 percent over this period, the increase was not nearly enough to compensate for a decline in trade with nearly all major European and South American markets. The United Kingdom was the only market in the European area to increase lard imports from the United States in the January-September period.

United States exports of lard to South America dropped from 24.9 million pounds in the first 9 months of 1956 to 13.3 million pounds for the same period this year. Substantial reductions in lard imports by Brazil, Bolivia, and Peru were mainly responsible for the overall drop in shipments to this area.

The 30-percent drop in exports to the European market was caused chiefly by sharp reduction in trade with Austria, West Germany, and Yugoslavia. Increased competition from vegetable oils and a decline in Public Law 480 shipments were contributing factors to the overall decline in lard exports.



LARD, INCLUDING RENDERED PORK FAT: U.S. exports by country of destination, average 1935-39, annual 1955 and 1956, and January-September 1956 and 1957.

Continent and Country	: Increase : or : Decrease (-)					
	Average 1935-39	1955	1956 <sup>1/</sup>	January-September 1956 <sup>1/</sup>	1957 <sup>1/</sup>	1957
	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds
North America:						
Canada . . . . .	2,077	7,308	17,726	7,068	19,125	12,057
Costa Rica . . . . .	1,186	8,208	5,693	4,931	1,607	-3,324
Cuba . . . . .	39,912	167,004	163,078	120,545	133,811	13,266
Dominican Republic . . . . .	460	-	19	-	12	12
El Salvador . . . . .	5	5,392	3,613	2,734	2,385	-349
Guatemala . . . . .	395	12,642	7,932	5,684	2,607	-3,077
Haiti . . . . .	645	6,360	6,322	3,799	4,876	1,077
Mexico . . . . .	5,499	20,314	14,786	11,770	8,654	-3,116
Netherlands Antilles . . . . .	307	418	441	73	81	8
Canal Zone . . . . .	157	1,018	941	716	299	-417
Panama, Republic of . . . . .	1,033	3,238	4,424	2,972	3,473	501
Other . . . . .	284	2,779	2,202	1,206	1,817	611
Total . . . . .	51,960	234,681	227,177	161,498	178,747	17,249
Europe:						
Austria . . . . .	2/	21,378	26,807	24,537	4,318	-20,219
Belgium-Luxembourg . . . . .	2,460	233	711	678	334	-344
France . . . . .	29	25	-	-	-	-
Germany, Federal Rep. <sup>3/</sup> . . . . .	2,536	68,689	70,210	46,672	12,384	-34,288
Greece . . . . .	1	12	24	22	7	-15
Italy . . . . .	707	289	162	162	2	-160
Netherlands . . . . .	330	19,204	4,303	2,839	-	-2,839
Poland . . . . .	39	661	-	-	-	-
Switzerland . . . . .	218	293	386	106	73	-33
United Kingdom . . . . .	95,733	167,732	161,591	112,125	115,304	3,179
Yugoslavia . . . . .	4	20,682	88,496	88,496	60,299	-28,197
Other . . . . .	3,591	899	478	401	318	-83
Total . . . . .	105,648	300,097	353,168	276,038	193,039	-82,999
South America:						
Brazil . . . . .	1	6	10,417	10,417	6,000	-4,417
Bolivia . . . . .	15	6,829	7,159	7,159	3,140	-4,019
Colombia . . . . .	3,741	2,852	1,007	1,007	936	-71
Ecuador . . . . .	801	2,787	4	4	4	-
Peru . . . . .	32	9,274	6,673	5,638	2,438	-3,200
Venezuela . . . . .	3,221	1,659	604	470	784	314
Other . . . . .	13	91	1,763	230	39	-191
Total . . . . .	7,824	23,498	27,627	24,925	13,341	-11,584
Soviet Union . . . . .	4	-	-	-	-	-
Asia . . . . .	36	3,768	3,379	2,113	1,950	-163
Africa . . . . .	158	20	43	43	110	67
Oceania . . . . .	6	8	-	-	4	4
Others <sup>4/</sup> . . . . .	-	-	-	5,100	326	-4,774
World Total . . . . .	165,636	562,072	611,394	469,717	387,517	-82,200

<sup>1/</sup> Preliminary. <sup>2/</sup> Austria included with Germany. <sup>3/</sup> Prior to 1952, reported as Germany. <sup>4/</sup> Includes a small quantity of nonspecified countries.

# DOMINION WOOL PRICES CONTINUE TO DECLINE

Wool prices at Dominion auctions continued to decline during the month of October. The New Zealand season opened at Dunedin on October 23 with values 12.5 percent below last season's close but still above opening auctions a year ago. Main reasons given for the decline in recent months include the increase in the United Kingdom's interest rates, Japan's financial difficulty, the unsettled position of France, and the sharp decline in United States' consumption.

The value of merino 64's during October declined 6 percent from September and also from a year ago. Crossbred 50's also were down 6 percent during the month but averaged the same as last October. When compared with last season's peak in May, values were down 19 and 15 percent, respectively, for merino and crossbred.

The following prices (cents per pound, clean cost, c.i.f., in U. K.) are based on quotations during the month from sales in the United Kingdom and in the Dominions.

Quality	: October 1956	: May 1957	: September 1957	: October 1957
- - - - - U. S. dollars per pound - - - - -				
70's	1.54	1.74	1.49	1.42
64's	1.40	1.63	1.40	1.32
60's	1.28	1.52	1.33	1.25
58's	1.12	1.39	1.27	1.19
56's	1.00	1.27	1.18	1.11
50's	.91	1.07	.97	.91
48's	.89	1.04	.93	.88
46's	.89	1.02	.91	.85

## U. S. MEAT EXPORTS RISE

During the first 9 months of 1957, United States red meat exports rose 11 percent over the same period in 1956. Due to a reduction in exports of horsemeat and variety meats, total exports of meat and meat products did not change. Higher prices in the United States for meat and reduced shipments under Public Law 480 have reduced the rate of increase for meat exports.

Due to larger P. L. 480 shipments to Spain, Israel, and Turkey during the first half of 1957, beef was again the largest export class.

Exports during the remainder of 1957 and during 1958 are expected to decline slightly from 1956 levels.



MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS: U.S. exports, product weight basis,  
January-September 1955-57

Type	1955	1956	1957
	<u>1,000 pounds</u>	<u>1,000 pounds</u>	<u>1,000 pounds</u>
Beef and veal:			
Fresh or frozen . . . .	16,079	62,535	65,132
Canned . . . . .	3,244	3,001	2,497
Pickled or cured . . . .	12,148	12,327	10,285
Total beef & veal . . .	31,471	77,863	78,614
Pork:			
Fresh or frozen . . . .	4,589	5,857	4,220
Hams & shoulders, cured or cooked . . . .	9,790	12,019	12,436
Bacon 1/ . . . . .	2,491	1,222	12,436
Other pork, pickled, salted or otherwise cured . . . . .	27,484	31,240	27,257
Hams and shoulders, canned . . . . .	664	676	2,968
Other pork, canned . . . .	2,666	3,238	13,783
Total pork . . . . .	47,704	54,252	62,471
Lamb and mutton: (except canned). . . .	267	457	1,167
Sausage, bologna, and frankfurters:			
Except canned . . . . .	1,228	1,646	2,708
Canned . . . . .	3,331	2,944	5,623
Meat & Meat products, canned, n.e.c. . . . .	1,761	1,972	3,556
Baby food, canned . . . .	358	346	867
Total meat exports . . .	86,120	139,480	155,006
Horse meat (all kinds)	11,369	9,029	5,439
Variety meats (except canned). . . . .	6,084	79,169	68,217
Total meat & meat products . . . . .	103,573	227,678	228,662

1/ Includes Cumberland & Wiltshire sides.

## ARGENTINA EXPORTS BEEF BY AIR

Following successful trial shipments, Swissair has started a regular weekly export service of beef from Buenos Aires to Zurich, Switzerland. The meat is chilled to 35 degrees Fahrenheit and shipped in 32-pound boxes. Dry ice maintains the temperature during flight. The present air freight rate for meat is about 35 U. S. cents per pound.

Swissair recently flew a trial shipment of meat from Buenos Aires to Tokyo, where it was delivered to luxury hotels.

## PANAMA INCREASES CATTLE EXPORTS

In early November the Economic Development Institute of Panama exported 274 head of cattle to Curacao, Dutch West Indies. Value of the shipment was around \$30,000. During the current year a total of 1,597 head, valued at \$178,000 have been exported by the institute.

The organization is contemplating the export of 1,000 more head of cattle, to Peru and Curacao, before the end of the year. There is also the possibility that Panama will make shipments to Puerto Rico and continental United States.

## IRELAND TO EXPORT HORSEMEAT

The Government of Ireland will now allow exports of horsemeat for human consumption, according to an announcement on October 23 by the Minister of Agriculture. The export of horsemeat for human consumption has been prohibited up to now because it was feared that the reputation of Irish beef might be jeopardized.

Animal welfare organizations have long advocated that horses be slaughtered in Ireland instead of being exported alive, because of the suffering of animals in transit. If an export trade in horsemeat develops, Irish industry and agriculture will benefit from the employment offered by slaughter operations and the processing of byproducts.

Ireland exported 11,500 horses during the first half of 1957, about 8,000 of which were destined for slaughter. Over 6,000 of these were shipped to Belgium.

## FINLAND'S WHEAT PRODUCTION DOWN

Recent reports confirm that Finland's 1957 wheat crop was the smallest of any recent year (see Foreign Crops and Markets, November 4.) The crop is now unofficially estimated at about 7.5 million bushels, 6 percent less than the 1956 harvest. Not only is the crop smaller but its quality is appreciably lower. As a result, Finland's import requirements will be increased for the current marketing season.

## ARGENTINE GRAIN HARVEST STARTS

Argentina's harvest of small grains is under way, and yields are reported to be somewhat below normal. Wheat production is expected to be about 225 million bushels--considerably under last year's harvest of 261 million bushels but still above the 1950-54 average of 216 million bushels.

Late October frosts have damaged grain crops in some areas. Parts of southern Santa Fe were hardest hit. About 50 percent of the wheat in some districts of that province was reportedly lost, and some fields were being pastured. Early-planted corn suffered the greatest damage in most districts, but there was still time to replant.

The acreage of rye to be harvested has been cut somewhat, as sizable acreages have been diverted to pasture because of a pasture shortage. Corn is reported in generally good-to-excellent condition despite dry conditions and cold weather. Corn planting has just been completed and the acreage is substantially above last year's area.

## SWEDEN'S GRAIN CROPS DOWN

Latest estimates of Sweden's grain crops show smaller outturns than forecast earlier (see Foreign Crops and Markets, October 7). The downward revisions are attributed to damage from heavy fall rains, with accompanying floods.

Wheat production is now estimated at 27.2 million bushels, compared with earlier estimates of 32.0 million bushels and 1956 production of 35.0 million. Both acreage and yields per acre are significantly lower than in 1956. The quality of the grain is poor in many areas. Preliminary estimates indicate that 37 percent of the wheat crop and 31 percent of the rye production are unfit for human consumption. In addition, the feed value of the coarse grains appears to have been reduced by 15 percent.

Wheat and rye of milling quality from the 1957 harvest will not cover domestic requirements and will be supplemented by reduction of stocks and by imports. Sweden is therefore expected to be on a net import basis this season.

Milling quotas for Swedish grain have been reintroduced. A wheat quota of 70 percent is in effect during November 1957-January 1958. The corresponding quota for rye is 60 percent, effective November-December 1957.

URUGUAY REPORTS RECORD  
WHEAT PRODUCTION

A record wheat crop is forecast for Uruguay. The harvest now in progress is unofficially forecast as high as 36.7 million bushels, which would be about 80 percent above the small 1956 production.

If the crop turns out as well as now forecast, a record surplus will be available for export from Uruguay. About half the expected production, or 18 million bushels, would be considered surplus for export.

CENTRAL AMERICA'S RICE  
CROP REDUCED BY DROUGHT

The 1957-58 rice crop in Central America has been reduced sharply by drought. Despite an increase in acreage, total production this season is around 15 percent below that last year. The principal countries affected are Panama, Costa Rica, and Nicaragua, all located in the southern part of the Central American area.

RICE (ROUGH): Central America, acreage and production,  
average 1945-46/49-50, annual 1956-57 and 1957-58

Country	Acreage			Production		
	Average			Average		
	1945-46	1956-57	1957-58	1945-46	1956-57	1957-58
	to		1/	to		1/
	1949-50			1949-50		
	1,000	1,000	1,000	Million	Million	Million
	acres	acres	acres	pounds	pounds	pounds
Central America:						
Costa Rica.....	41	92	92	44.2	110.0	85.0
El Salvador.....	41	38	45	59.9	61.3	65.0
Guatemala.....	18	19	21	17.0	21.3	22.0
Honduras.....	25	32	32	23.8	29.7	30.0
Nicaragua.....	28	62	70	36.0	75.0	65.0
Panama.....	124	210	210	145.5	215.9	173.0
Total.....	277	453	470	326.4	513.2	440.0

1/ Tentative estimates.

Compiled from official statistics and estimates of the Office of Foreign Agricultural Service.

Substantially larger rice imports will be needed for these countries in 1958 than normally. The total production of Central America this year is smaller by nearly 75 million pounds of rough rice, or approximately 50 million pounds of rice converted to a milled basis.



Rice imports will be needed in Panama in the near future. The 1957-58 crop is estimated at 173 million pounds of rough rice, compared with 216 million pounds in 1956-57. Panama in recent years has been about self-sufficient in rice, so if the average per capita consumption of recent years were maintained, rice imports in 1958 would be between 25 and 30 million pounds of milled rice.

Decreased rice production in Panama this season is attributed mainly to drought conditions that delayed planting and also to heavy rains in the late harvesting period. In addition, invasion of crab grass and loss of soil fertility are factors tending to reduce rice yields.

In Costa Rica, virtually all the first crop planted in the important rice area of Guanacaste Province was lost as a result of drought. Losses were serious in Puntarenas Province; in other places only part of the crop was damaged. The second crop to be harvested in December, however, is expected to be up to normal.

Despite a substantial increase in the rice crop of last season, Costa Rica is importing nearly 15 million pounds of milled rice in 1957. Imports in 1958 probably will be greater. Rice consumption reportedly has been increasing because of a rapid growth in population.

Even though more land was put into rice in Nicaragua, the crop is expected to be 10 percent less than in 1956-57. There were no carryover stocks of rice on August 1, 1957. Import requirements in 1958 will be at least 11 million pounds of milled rice, and perhaps more. Nicaraguan rice prices in late October were reported above average.

#### URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENT AIDS SURPLUS BUTTER SITUATION

In an effort to stimulate butter exports, Uruguay's National Council of Government has passed a decree on November 6 which allows a 100 percent free-exchange rate on butter and casein exports. Prior to this decree, Uruguay followed a dual conversion system, similar to Argentina's "aforo" price, whereby only 85 percent of the price received for these commodities could be converted at the free rate of exchange (4.1 pesos per dollar) and the remainder had to be converted at the controlled rate (1.5 pesos per dollar).

Uruguay exports over 1 million pounds of casein annually, with the United States and Brazil as principal markets. Uruguay is not a butter exporter, however, and has not reported any butter exports since 1953, when 661,000 pounds were sold to the Soviet Union. By granting the 100 percent free-exchange rate and thus encouraging exports, the government hopes to relieve accumulating butter stocks (see Foreign Crops and Markets, October 21, 1957). Uruguay will probably seek neighboring South American butter markets (primarily Venezuela).



**WORLD BUTTER AND CHEESE PRICES: Wholesale prices at specified markets,  
with comparisons  
(U. S. cents per pound)**

Country, market, and description	Butter				Cheese			
	Quotations				Quotations			
	Cur--: Month : Year				Cur--: Month : Year			
	1957	rent:	earlier:	earlier:	1957	rent:	earlier:	earlier:
<u>United Kingdom (London)</u>	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
New Zealand, finest-----	Oct. 31	35.6:	38.7:	36.7:	-----	-----	-----	-----
Australian choicest-----	Oct. 31	35.5:	38.6:	36.5:	-----	-----	-----	-----
New Zealand, finest	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
white-----	Oct. 31	16.4:	21.1:	37.2:	-----	-----	-----	-----
Australian choicest	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
white-----	Oct. 31	-	19.2:	36.5:	-----	-----	-----	-----
<u>Australia (Sydney)</u>	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Choicest butter-----	Oct. 31	46.7:	46.7:	46.7:	-----	-----	-----	-----
Choicest cheddar-----	Oct. 31	28.2:	28.2:	28.2:	-----	-----	-----	-----
<u>Irish Republic (Dublin)</u>	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Creamery butter-----	Oct. 31	54.8:	54.8:	48.9:	-----	-----	-----	-----
Cheese-----	Oct. 31	30.8:	30.8:	30.8:	-----	-----	-----	-----
<u>Denmark (Copenhagen)</u>	Oct. 31	36.1:	36.1:	48.8:	-----	-----	-----	-----
<u>France (Paris)</u>	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Charentes creamery-----	Nov. 1	73.7:	75.8:	84.2:	-----	-----	-----	-----
<u>Germany (Kempton)</u>	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Markenbutter-----	Oct. 23	68.0:	68.0:	67.0:	-----	-----	-----	-----
<u>United States</u>	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
92-score creamery (N.Y.)	Oct. 31	60.5:	63.0:	62.8:	-----	-----	-----	-----
Cheddar (Wisconsin)-----	Oct. 31	35.0:	36.0:	35.0:	-----	-----	-----	-----
<u>Netherlands (Leeuwarden)</u>	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Creamery butter-----	Nov. 2	49.9:	49.4:	49.4:	-----	-----	-----	-----
Full cream Gouda-----	Oct. 25	23.0:	24.2:	24.2:	-----	-----	-----	-----
Edam, 40 percent-----	Oct. 25	21.0:	22.3:	21.9:	-----	-----	-----	-----
<u>Belgium (Hasselt)</u>	Oct. 31	76.0:	81.1:	84.0:	-----	-----	-----	-----
<u>Canada (Montreal)</u>	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
1st grade creamery-----	Oct. 26	63.3:	63.8:	60.1:	-----	-----	-----	-----
Ontario white-----	Oct. 19	35.4:	35.4:	33.9:	-----	-----	-----	-----

Source: Intelligence Bulletin, the Commonwealth Economic Committee; and the Dairy Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

December 2, 1957

## Foreign Crops and Markets

### U. K. CHEESE PRICES FALL

Cheese prices in the United Kingdom which have been weak throughout the year reached a low point this month. On November 12, New Zealand cheese was selling for 16.2 cents per pound, compared with 37.1 cents per pound a year ago. Domestic cheddar cheese was quoted just under New Zealand cheese at 16.9 cents per pound, a 52-percent drop from November 1956 and a 15 percent decrease from September 1957. London's Financial Times reported a 30-percent drop in cheese prices during the first 10 days of November.

While United Kingdom milk production has shown a continual rise in recent years, fluid milk consumption has remained relatively stable. Over half of the resulting surplus is utilized for cheese manufacture. United Kingdom cheese production in 1957 is forecast at 257.6 million pounds, 15 percent above last year and 83 percent over 1955. Cheese imports are expected to total 286.7 million pounds a 4-percent decline from last year.

Commenting on the situation, the Financial Times states that cheese consumption is expected to remain static at less than 10 pounds per person per year, regardless of lower prices. If production, import, and consumption forecasts for 1957 prove accurate, the United Kingdom would have a surplus of 58 million pounds over consumption.

### BRITISH DRY PEA PRODUCTION CONTINUES LOW

The United Kingdom's 1957 dry pea production has been estimated at 1,474,000 bags of 100 pounds each. This is almost as low as in 1956 and 1954 when wet harvest cut production to approximately 1,300,000 bags, or roughly half a crop in each of those years. The 1955 harvest was 2.8 million bags.

The low 1957 output resulted principally from a 26-percent reduction in planting. Acreage dropped from 105,000 in 1956 to 78,000 in 1957. The decline was attributed to low domestic prices, and has produced considerable British comment. The Farmer's Weekly has called attention to the rise in dry pea imports in recent years and has suggested a protective tariff. The Secretary of the Pea Committee of the National Farmers Union has declared it inadvisable to buy from dollar countries peas which can be grown in the United Kingdom.

U. S. pea exports to the United Kingdom in the U. S. marketing year (August-July 1954-55, which coincided with the 1954 poor British harvest) totaled 260,000 bags. After the similarly poor harvest in 1956, U. S. pea exports to Britain totaled 446,000 bags. Aside from 1954 and 1956, U. S. pea exports to the United Kingdom in recent years have been less than 10,000 bags annually. During 1957, U. S. peas have been selling delivered in London for about \$6.00 per 100 pounds.

#### NEW ZEALAND BUTTER SHIPMENTS TO U.K. DROP SLIGHTLY

Arrivals of New Zealand butter in United Kingdom ports during October 1957 dropped slightly to 28.9 million pounds from 29.8 million pounds last year. Arrivals of New Zealand cheese at 15.4 million pounds were the same in both years.

Shipments afloat on October 31 of both butter and cheese were considerably smaller than those for the same date a year ago.

#### DANISH DAIRY TRADE UP

Danish exports of butter during the first 6 months of 1957 were 2 percent above those for comparable 1956. Cheese exports increased 6 percent; canned milk 41 percent, and dried milk 34 percent.

Exports of butter in retail packages rose from 10.8 million pounds in January-June 1956 to 15.1 million pounds in the same period of 1957, indicating an expanding market for packaged butter. The principal purchasers were the United Kingdom (8.8 million pounds), Lebanon, the Belgian Congo and the Federal Republic of Germany, (0.7 million pounds each).

Natural cheese exports, 44.5 million pounds last year, amounted to 50.1 million pounds this year, of which 34.2 million pounds went to the Federal Republic of Germany.

Exports of condensed whole milk at 31.8 million pounds showed a gain of 37 percent, due to increased shipments to Burma, which in the first half of this year imported 11 million pounds from Denmark. Evaporated whole milk exports increased 63 percent to 6.6 million pounds. Heavier purchases by India and Thailand, the principal outlets, accounted for this increase.

Total dried milk (mainly dry whole milk) exports reached 26.8 million pounds in the first 6 months of 1957, compared with approximately 20 million pounds in comparable 1956. Shipments this year went primarily to Brazil (7.0 million pounds), Federal Republic of Germany (3.5 million pounds), British Malaya (2.8 million pounds), and Venezuela and Rumania (2 million pounds each).

#### U. S. EXPORTS OF EDIBLE OILS IN OCTOBER DOWN ONE-FOURTH FROM PREVIOUS YEAR

United States exports of cottonseed and soybean oils in October, preliminarily estimated by the Census Bureau at 69.5 million pounds, declined roughly one-fourth from October 1956 shipments.

Cottonseed oil exports in October, estimated at 32 million pounds, were  $2\frac{1}{2}$  times those of October 1956. Estimated soybean oil exports, on the other hand, were less than one-half of October 1956 shipments.

COTTONSEED OIL, SOYBEAN OIL, OILCAKES AND MEALS: U. S. preliminary estimates of exports in October 1957 and actual exports October 1956 and October-September 1955-56 and 1956-57

Commodity	October		October-September	
	1956	1957 (Preliminary)	1955-56	1956-57
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
Cottonseed oil, refined.....	.3	9.2	245.1	78.6
Cottonseed oil, refined and further processed.....	.7	1.2	114.6	29.8
Cottonseed oil, crude.....	12.0	21.6	245.4	314.5
Total cottonseed oil.....	13.0	32.0	605.1	422.9
Soybean oil, refined.....	4.5	4.7	63.7	93.4
Soybean oil, refined and further processed.....	55.2	8.7	404.9	327.6
Soybean oil, crude.....	22.5	24.1	87.8	386.3
Total soybean oil.....	82.2	37.5	556.4	807.3
Total cottonseed and soybean oil.....	95.2	69.5	1,161.5	1,230.2
	Thousand short tons	Thousand short tons	Thousand short tons	Thousand short tons
Cottonseed cake and meal.....	5.2	.2	155.7	30.1
Linseed cake and meal.....	6.9	2.2	152.6	40.0
Soybean cake and meal.....	57.9	26.8	400.1	443.2
Total cake and meal.....	70.0	29.2	708.4	513.3

Compiled from official records of the Bureau of the Census.

United States cake and meal exports in October were less than half those of October 1956. Soybean cake and meal constituted over 90 percent of the total.

Soybean oil exports for the crop year 1956-57 increased nearly one-half from the previous year, while cottonseed oil exports were down nearly one-third. Cake and meal exports were about 28 percent below 1955-56 shipments.

Soybean inspections for export through the week ended November 1 totaled almost 10.7 million bushels, compared with inspections of 12 million bushels through November 2 last year.



PHILIPPINE COPRA PRODUCTION  
EXPECTED TO EXCEED LAST YEAR'S

Philippine copra production in 1957 is expected to exceed that of 1956. Growing conditions have been favorable, with no serious typhoon damage to coconuts. Exports of copra in 1957 may exceed the postwar high of 1947. (See Foreign Crops and Markets, October 21, for January-September export data. For October data see issue of November 18, p. 2.)

COPRA AND COCONUT OIL: Derived production in Philippine Republic in terms of copra equivalent, average 1947-51, annual 1955 and 1956, January-September 1956 and 1957

Commodity	Average 1947-51	1955	1956 <u>1</u> /	Jan.-Sept. 1956 <u>1</u> /	Jan.-Sept. 1957 <u>1</u> /
	Long tons	Long tons	Long tons	Long tons	Long tons
Exports:					
Copra.....	719,606	801,168	964,034	724,655	732,303
Coconut oil as copra <u>2</u> /.....	87,843	111,519	170,101	116,935	105,226
Total as copra..	807,449	912,687	1,134,135	841,590	837,529
Domestic utilization:					
Coconut oil as copra <u>2</u> /.....	89,035	146,889	162,273	125,600	144,049
Total production as copra <u>3</u> /.....	896,484	1,059,576	1,296,408	967,190	981,578

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Copra equivalent computed at 63 percent oil extraction rate. 3/ Excluding coconuts used in the making of homemade oil and native culinary preparations.

Source: Philippine trade sources.

Actual copra production and exports may be larger, possibly by as much as 10 percent, than shown in the above table. This is a result of the overshipping of copra, believed to be a common practice in the export trade. Dollar earnings for these excess, undeclared weights of copra reportedly have been used to import commodities for which allocations were not available from the Central Bank.

Copra cake and meal produced during the first 3 quarters of 1957 amounted to 79,768 long tons. Exports of copra cake and meal in the first 9 months of the year totaled 71,792 tons, 2 percent below the same 1956 period.

Desiccated coconut production, totaling 40,295 long tons, increased over one-third from the first 3 quarters of 1956. Shipments of desiccated coconut for the first 9 months of the year were 40,802 long tons, including 2,747 tons to Europe.



# INDIA PROCESSES RECORD VOLUME OF AFRICAN RAW CASHEWS DURING 1957

Indian factories processed a record volume of 101,000 short tons of East African raw cashews during 1957. Poor quality of the imported nuts, however, has resulted in a loss in net volume estimated at 8,500 tons, inshell basis. In 1956, 78,000 tons of African nuts were processed by the Indian industry.

India's domestic crop of raw cashews, including an estimated 4,000 tons produced by the Portuguese colony of Goa, amounted to 66,000 tons in 1957, about 15 percent less than the 78,000-ton harvest in 1956.

Contracts for importing African new-crop nuts are customarily signed each year in August, and the season's first shipments usually commence arriving in December. As of early November, no new-crop business in exports had yet been reported because of a disagreement between shippers and importers over the tolerances for defects permitted in imported nuts. The Indian trade feels the dispute will be resolved shortly with no revisions in the previously acceptable 10 percent tolerance.

Indian exports of cashew kernels for the year ending December 31, 1957, are expected to reach 1,325,000 cases of 50 pounds each, or approximately 8 percent less than the 1,433,000 cases exported in 1956. Cashew kernel exports during 1957 as of mid-October are estimated at 1,050,000 cases, with shipments distributed as follows:

United States and Canada	850,000 cases
Soviet-Bloc countries	100,000 cases
United Kingdom	65,000 cases
Australia and others	35,000 cases

The export price as of early November was 51 cents per pound for November/December shipments. Some sales are said to have been made at 49 cents for February/March/April 1958 shipments. Pieces are as low as 29 cents per pound, a drop of 20 cents per pound from the maximum of 49 cents attained last year, due to no demand from the United Kingdom.

The Indian Government recently set up an Export Risks Insurance Corporation, expressly designed to promote exports of Indian goods. The new insurance is intended to cover risks involved in shipping products on credit terms. The cashew industry, an important foreign exchange earner, should benefit from the new coverage offered.

## OUTLOOK BRIGHTER FOR SOUTH AFRICAN PROCESSED FRUIT IN 1958

Canned and dried deciduous fruit production in South Africa, sharply reduced by adverse weather during 1957, is expected to return to normal levels during 1958.

Canned apricot production in South Africa declined from the record output of 1,021,206 cases of  $24/2\frac{1}{2}$  equivalent to 571,237 cases in 1957--a drop of 44 percent. Canned pear production was down 25 percent, from 438,055 cases to 328,025 cases. The canned peach pack of 1957 was least affected; the 1957 pack totaled 1,412,596 cases, representing a decline of only 5 percent from the 1956 level of 1,484,598 cases. On the other hand, production of fruit salad, a relatively minor item, rose to 148,658 cases during 1957, whereas the previous season's output was 92,977. Three quarters of South Africa's entire canned deciduous fruit pack is normally exported.

South African dried tree-fruit and vine-fruit packs also were down in 1957. The 1957 dried vine-fruit volume was down 7 percent to an estimated 6,400 tons, while dried tree-fruit production at 3,600 tons was 40 percent lower than the previous year's volume. Exports of all dried fruits during 1957 are expected to reach 3,850 tons. Stocks at the beginning of the season were below normal and are forecast as negligible for the close of 1957 marketing year.

## PROSPECTS FAVORABLE FOR 1957-58 CHILEAN DRIED PRUNE PACK

The 1957-58 Chilean dried prune pack is forecast at 5,700 short tons by the Chilean Prune Growers' Association (ASPROCICA), a marketing organization controlling nearly 65 percent of the prune pack. The prospective pack is expected to be 4 percent larger than the 5,500-ton production of the preceding year.

According to the Chilean trade, European countries such as West Germany, the United Kingdom, and Denmark have shown interest in small-sized Chilean prunes. There are few opportunities for exporting large-sized Chilean prunes to these markets because United States shippers are able to supply large prunes of high quality at lower prices. ASPROCICA has initiated an extensive campaign aimed at increasing domestic consumption of large-sized prunes. Rebate of the export surcharge and government assumption of sanitary inspection costs are at the same time stimulating shipments to foreign markets.

During calendar year 1956, exports of Chilean dried prunes totaled 2,234 short tons. Denmark and West Germany continued to be the principal importing countries. During the first 5 months of 1957, the United Kingdom ranked first, purchasing 394 tons of prunes, while West Germany was second, with imports totaling 273 tons.

PRUNES, DRIED: Chile, exports by country of destination, annual 1955 and 1956, January-May 1957

Country of destination	1955	1956	1957
	Jan. - Dec.	Jan. - Dec.	Jan. - May
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
Brazil.....	252	108	6
Denmark.....	1,624	1,011	159
Finland.....	702	306	-
Peru.....	50	77	8
West Germany.....	1,537	674	273
Others.....	32	58	1/ 587
Total.....	4,197	2,234	1,033

1/ Includes 188 tons to the Netherlands and 394 tons to the United Kingdom.

MALAYAN COPRA PRODUCTION 12 PERCENT  
BELOW 1956 LEVEL

Malayan copra production in January-August 1957, totaling 88,186 long tons, was 12 percent below the 100,656 tons produced in the same period last year. The decline is attributed to the low output by smallholders in the first half of 1957, better income that could be earned from the rubber plantations, and greater supplies of Indonesian copra during the past months.

Malayan imports of copra, largely from Indonesia, in the first 3 quarters of 1957, amounted to 128,914 long tons; this was nearly 60 percent more than imports in the comparable period of 1956. Exports of copra for the first 9 months of the year were 77,920 long tons, more than 3 times the quantity exported in the same period of 1956. Shipments to Europe were only 600 long tons, against 12,504 last year, because European buyers have switched to the cheaper Philippine copra. India continued as the major market, taking nearly three-fourths of the total.

Coconut oil production in the first 8 months of 1957 amounted to 93,284 long tons, a decrease of 2 percent from January-August 1956. The fall in production was due mainly to increased exports of copra, which reduced supplies of imported copra for Singapore oil mills. Oil millers and copra merchants compete for the erratic supplies of Indonesian copra.

Malayan exports of coconut oil in January-September totaled 73,633 long tons, a decrease of 3 percent from the same period in 1956. This was due primarily to growing competition from European oil mills which are being supplied by cheaper Philippine copra; to local high production costs caused by irregular supplies of Indonesian copra; and to the inability of local oil mills to operate at optimum capacity for want of raw material.

(A tabular breakdown of Malayan copra and coconut oil trade will be given in next week's issue of Foreign Crops and Markets.)

# MALAYA'S EXPORTS OF PALM OIL AND PALM KERNELS UP FROM 1956

Malayan exports of palm oil in the first 3 quarters of 1957 totaled 50,278 short tons, an increase of 13 percent from the comparable period of 1956. Palm kernel shipments of 13,890 short tons were one-fifth higher than those of January-September 1956.

Nearly one-half of the total palm oil was shipped to the United Kingdom, while Japan was the chief market for palm kernels, taking nearly 40 percent of the total.

PALM OIL AND PALM KERNELS: Malaya, exports by country of destination, average 1935-39, annual 1956, and January-September 1956 and 1957

Country	Palm oil				Palm kernels			
	Average:		Jan.-Sept.		Average:		Jan.-Sept.	
	1935-39	1956 1/2	1956 1/2	1957 1/2	1935-39	1956 1/2	1956 1/2	1957 1/2
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
Canada.....	9,598	12,636	9,594	7,314	--	--	--	--
Denmark.....	--	--	--	--	226	3,489	2,325	728
France.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	571
Germany, West..	--	--	--	--	1,410	773	594	56
Greece.....	--	--	--	--	--	476	476	1,032
Ireland.....	--	--	--	--	--	224	224	--
Italy.....	--	--	--	--	134	28	28	--
Netherlands....	--	--	--	--	1,304	9,743	7,152	3,960
United Kingdom:	23,270	34,167	23,740	24,893	2,115	717	650	2,005
India.....	908	18,540	10,990	17,982	--	28	--	--
Japan.....	922	--	--	--	46	--	--	5,538
Other.....	12,662	271	111	89	2,897	--	--	--
Total.....	47,360	65,614	44,435	50,278	8,132	15,478	11,449	13,890
1/ Preliminary								

Compiled from official sources.

Production of palm oil in the first 8 months of 1957 is estimated at 42,021 short tons, an increase of 4 percent from the same period last year. If favorable weather continues, Malayan palm oil production should reach at least 67,000 short tons.

The recently completed processing plant of the Colonial Development Corporation at Kulai, Johore, is reportedly working at one-fourth capacity. The mill has 8 presses.



## SUDAN REDUCES COTTON PRICES, CUTS EXPORT TAX IN HALF

The Sudan Gezira Board has announced a further reduction of its reserve (minimum) cotton prices, effective November 5, 1957. Prices of a few of the higher grades were unchanged from those announced August 23 (Foreign Crops and Markets, September 23, 1957). Most grades, however, were reduced about 3 cents per pound from the August prices.

This is the third reduction in Sudan's reserve prices since the original announcement for the 1956-57 crop, March 14, 1957. The November prices are from 25 to 30 percent below those set in March.

The cotton export tax of 8.70 cents per pound was reduced 50 percent November 16, 1957, to 4.35 cents per pound.

## COLOMBIA'S CACAO CROP AFFECTED BY DROUGHT

Reports indicate that Colombia's cacao production may have been reduced during 1957 primarily because of drought. Diseases and insects also are said to have caused some losses. The 1957 crop, however, is still expected to be slightly above that of 1956.

Colombia has been trying to increase production and improve the quality of its cacao, and one government official estimates that in another 10 years Colombia may not need to import cacao. Other observers believe it will take longer to train producers to use improved cultural methods and better disease control in order to produce more cacao on an economically sound basis.

Until recent years about 85 percent of all the cacao production in Colombia was in the Cauca Valley. Now it is considered that only about 70 percent is in the Cauca Valley. Further reductions in the volume produced there are forecast, as authorities indicate that the valley's soil and climate are not entirely satisfactory for economic cacao production. General growing conditions, including a high water table in the soils, do not allow proper root functioning. As a result, the trees are so unhealthy that they are subject to many fungi and insects.

To increase production enough to meet national needs and provide a balance for exports, some cacao authorities believe that in addition to expanding acreage in the present producing area, production should be encouraged in other parts of the country. In July 1957 the United States and Colombia entered into an agreement whereby a maximum of 6,500,000 Colombian pesos (about \$1 $\frac{1}{4}$  million) of Public Law 480 loan funds available to the Colombian Government are to be made available for loans to owners of cacao plantations for the purpose of increasing cacao production.



## ARGENTINA'S COTTON PRODUCTION DOWN AS CONSUMPTION INCREASES

Argentina's 1956-57 cotton crop, officially estimated at 480,000 bales (500 pounds gross), declined 15 percent from 1955-56 production of 563,000 bales; and was 9 percent below the 1954-55 crop of 525,000 bales. Consumption of cotton, however, has increased in this period to 565,000 bales in 1956-57, 9 percent above the use of 520,000 bales in 1955-56, and 19 percent higher than consumption of 475,000 bales in 1954-55.

The decline in 1956-57 production was attributed principally to insect infestation, fungus disease, and weather conditions. Harvested acreage in 1956-57 was 1,375,000 acres, the same as in 1955-56. Preliminary trade estimates of the area planted for the 1957-58 crop are for an increase of about 7 percent over 1956-57. All cotton produced is upland cotton, derived from American varieties. Cotton is planted in October-November, harvested from March to July.

The increased consumption was attributed to higher domestic demand due partly to substantial wage increases in 1956. The Argentine textile industry is fully able to supply domestic requirements of cotton textiles, and textile imports are therefore prohibited. The industry does import higher-count cotton yarns, and small quantities of extra long staple cotton. Exports of cotton textiles are negligible.

The lower crop and higher consumption have reduced cotton exports. These were 51,000 bales in 1956-57; compared with 2,000 in 1955-56, and 103,000 in 1954-55. Principal destinations in 1956-57, with comparable 1955-56 figures in parentheses, were: Italy 14,000 bales (700); Netherlands 11,000 (none); United Kingdom 10,000 (800); Belgium 10,000 (700); Hong Kong 4,000 (none); and France 2,000 (none).

Cotton imports in 1956-57 were 17,000 bales, compared with 11,000 in 1955-56. Most of the cotton is from Peru with smaller quantities from Egypt. Cotton stocks on August 1, 1957, were 400,000 bales compared with 520,000 bales held a year earlier. These are mid-season stocks in the Southern Hemisphere, since the cotton year in Argentina begins on March 1.

## JAMAICA PROMOTING COFFEE PRODUCTION

Expansion of Jamaica's coffee production was the subject of recent discussions between the Minister of Agriculture of Jamaica and technical and administrative officers of the Jamaican Government.

Three major decisions were reached: (1) to try to reduce the high mortality of seedlings from improper planting--by distributing seedlings only to growers whose land preparation has been inspected by agricultural officers; (2) to distribute seedlings only through groups organized by the Jamaica Agricultural Society; (3) to conduct an intensive educational campaign emphasizing planting techniques.

The Government of Jamaica has been carrying on coffee expansion programs for a number of years. Several million seedlings have been distributed but overall increases in production have been small. Coffee yields on government test plots have approximated about 2,000 pounds per acre, but the average production on farms may be only one-tenth that amount. Most Jamaican coffee is grown on small farms as a sideline.

#### COLOMBIA PASSES DECREE FOR MORE EFFECTIVE LAND USE

The Minister of Agriculture's long-awaited development plan for more effective land use in Colombia was announced in a decree published November 8.

The decree provides for a classification survey of all arable land, and requires that owners of land suitable for crops must devote a certain percentage of their land to crop farming or suffer an increase in their income taxes. The decree also sets up tax exemptions for those who reclaim unused land and put it under cultivation, provisions for rural road building, and severe penalties for rural robberies or thefts. It spells out specific conditions for the rental of land, to dispel owners' fears that a rental may lead to loss of the land through the renters' acquisition of squatters' rights.

In an effort to boost the production of cacao, edible oil, rubber, olive oil, and forest products, special tax exemptions will be allowed for these products.

#### CUBAN POULTRY AND CATTLE INTERESTS RECOMMEND DUTY-FREE IMPORTS OF CORN

The President of Cuba's National Association of Hatcheries and Feed Factories has recommended to the Cuban Minister of Commerce that authorization be granted for the importation of 100,000 Spanish quintals (about 181,100 bushels) of corn exempt from customs duties. The corn would be for distribution throughout Cuba in order to satisfy needs of feed mills supplying cattle and poultry raisers.

Stated reasons for the request were: fear of poultry feeders in Havana that feed mills were going to raise the price of feeds due to a sharp increase in the price of corn; extremely low market prices for chickens; and a reported scarcity of corn in Oriente Province--the Cuban granary--due to over-exportation, mainly to Puerto Rico.

The Cuban price of corn in mid-November was quoted at \$2.54 per bushel c.i.f. Havana. The price f.o.b. U. S. Atlantic ports was \$1.52 per bushel. Corn imported into Cuba from the United States is currently subject to a duty of \$0.69 per bushel. (Continued on p. 24)

Early in October, a Ministry of Agriculture Decree (No. 2170) extended to June 30, 1958, the government's corn support price of \$1.52 per bushel. This is the minimum guaranteed price paid by Cuba's Corn Stabilization Administration for clean, husked corn, packed in bags, and with a humidity content of not more than 12 percent, delivered at a designated warehouse, all expenses incurred to that point being for the account of the vender.

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